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AmdtC  
ASmall-Logan  
2/25/03  
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Lap Wai Chow, et al.

Appl. No : 09/768,904

Filed: January 24, 2001

For: "INTEGRATED CIRCUITS  
PROTECTED AGAINST REVERSE  
ENGINEERING AND METHOD FOR  
FABRICATING THE SAME USING AN  
APPARENT METAL CONTACT LINE  
TERMINATING ON FIELD OXIDE"

) Examiner: Nguyen, Joseph H.

) Art Unit: 2815

) Our Ref: B-3964 618029-8

) Date: February 6, 2003

) Re: **Response**

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RESPONSE

Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action issued November 7, 2002. Please amend the claims as indicated below. **All amendments and remarks herein are made without prejudice.**

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 5, 9, and 13 without prejudice. Please cancel claims 21 and 22.

A clean version of all pending claims, as amended, is presented on the following pages. A marked version of amended claims 1, 5, 9, and 13 is attached as Appendix A to this response. The REMARKS section of this response discusses the specific amendments made to the claims.